

- The MONTH with the EDITOR -

Notes, reflections, extracts from correspondence, comment upon medical and health news
in both the scientific and public press, briefs of sorts from here, there and everywhere.

"THE SURGEONS AND PHYSICIANS OF THE WORLD know practically nothing about how to make an old man young," said Doctor Emmett Rixford upon his return recently from Europe. He endorsed the statement of a colleague who said, in effect, that "It takes more than three kinds of monkeys to make a young man out of an oldster." The three who are usually active in the effort—for a price—are, the patient who is operated on, the surgeon who operates, and the monkey that is the victim.

Goats might well be substituted for monkeys, and the statement would still be true. But goat glands are cheaper and profits greater. The sale of goats' testicles is said to be lucrative business for slaughterhouses.

"BY THIS YOU MAY KNOW THEM"—"A famous British surgeon visiting this country," says the San Francisco Examiner editorially, "was asked if he had brought over any new secrets of his art."

"He said, 'Our profession is international. When we find a new way to conquer the ailments of mankind they are immediately communicated to the whole world.'"

"So it is in all science. Those who are trying to make things better for the whole human race have no secrets from each other. *By this you may know them.*"

We do not know who this British surgeon referred to was, but it wasn't Hadden nor those of his ilk who frequently occupy "news" space.

WE ARE INDEBTED TO DOCTOR WILLARD J. STONE of Pasadena for a copy of the outstandingly able Baccalaureate Address delivered by Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas at the University of Michigan commencement exercises. Extracts from this address are used elsewhere in this issue.

"OVER ONE HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE in the United States escaped being run over by automobiles last year, several of them having also escaped the year before."—Life.

California, Nevada, and Utah Doctors Publish Elsewhere:

[Note—Members of the California, Nevada, and Utah Medical Associations are invited to supply the editor with reprints or marked copies of magazines containing their articles or very brief abstracts. All that we receive will be noted regularly in this space.—Editor.]

—FRANK HINMAN OF SAN FRANCISCO AND ALEXANDER B. HELPER OF SEATTLE (Archives of Surgery, October, 1925) discuss "Experimental Hydronephrosis."

—LEONARD W. ELY OF SAN FRANCISCO (Archives of Surgery, October, 1925) reports a case of Sprengel's deformity.

—M. S. WOOLF, SAN FRANCISCO (Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology, October, 1925) writes on "Leukonychia Striata."

—EDWARD N. TWITCHELL, SAN FRANCISCO (Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing, October, 1925) takes "Psychiatric Training in Nursing Curricula" as his subject. Twitchell proposes to use bedside teaching for nurses.

—WALTER C. ALVAREZ, SAN FRANCISCO, discusses "Digestibility versus Roughage and Vitamins" in "Baking Technology" of September 15. The magazine is the "house organ" of the American Institute of Baking:

"There is little need for worrying at any time about the vitamins in the diet of an average middle-class American," believes Alvarez. "He will probably get all that he needs even on a smooth diet; and so far as I know, there is as yet no evidence that a superfluity of vitamins makes a man any more healthy than he is when he has just enough for his needs."

—In another article (Journal A. M. A., October 3, 1925) Alvarez writes on "Reverse Peristalsis in the Bowel, a Precursor of Vomiting."

—HAROLD K. FABER OF SAN FRANCISCO (American Journal of Diseases of Children) discusses "Variability in Weight for Height in Children of School Age." His most important conclusion is that:

"Variability in weight for height, in the directions of both underweight and overweight, increases with age in both sexes. These differences and variations in variability are too great to be disregarded in favor of a single standard of variation, such as is now in general use."

—J. W. ROBERTSON, V. H. PODSTAT, C. W. MACK, AND JEWEL FAY have issued an instructive pamphlet on "Occupational Therapy," as practiced at Livermore Sanitarium. The excellent, ethical, and all inclusive scientific treatment and care of the mentally ill as it is being carried out at Livermore Sanitarium is doing much to popularize institutions for this big service, as has long since been done for hospitals for the care of physical ills.

The Book Analysis Service of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is being made more valuable because several doctors are *voluntarily* sending in reviews of books that come to their notice.

More doctors—and others also—rely upon this service than book publishers realize. Our correspondence upon this subject is illuminating and encouraging.

Careful, fair reviews of books, solely in the interests of our readers, are welcome from any doctor or other reader. Obviously, such effort is a work of love, because only the editor and his councilors may know who writes a review.

Any review that is published represents the magazine, and not the opinion of any one person.

More and more correspondence about books is invited.

A "NEW" HEALTH SLOGAN—If it were not for the fine dust which we breathe and the stagnant water which we drink, Adam's sons would live for ten centuries.—Mohammed, in the Koran.

DOCTOR HAROLD W. WRIGHT, formerly of San Francisco, is now consulting neuro-psychiatrist to the Department of Welfare of Pennsylvania. Doctor Wright feels that the experience he is gaining in initiating traveling diagnostic clinics will be of use in our effort to provide better health for all people.

According to the Public Press:

—The following doctors were to be tried before the Board of Medical Examiners for the alleged offenses set opposite their names:

"Dr. Herbert E. Bogue, Los Angeles, charged with violation of the narcotic laws; Dr. Rebecca E. Dorsey, Los Angeles, 'goat gland specialist,' charged with illegal advertising; Dr. Edward O. Hanlon, Los Angeles, narcotic charge; Dr. Toshio Ichioka, Los Angeles, illegal advertising; Dr. Franklin E. Kerr, Orange County, convicted of sending poison candy through the mails to his wife, and Dr. Robert Renwick, Los Angeles, aiding and abetting an unlicensed practitioner."

An interesting group of alleged offenses, particularly the charge that a "goat gland specialist" can be guilty of illegal advertising. What on earth could she say in her advertisements that is not frequently featured as "news"? The legal fences around "doctors" are so low and ramshackle that our board will have to keep very busy keeping poachers out. However, do the best you can, fellows, we are with you.

—A "nutrition expert," in speeding along the "royal road to health," has discovered the "wiggles" is a terrible children's disease, and that it is caused by too much tea or coffee.

This "expert," according to newspaper display, "warns"

the school children that "the wiggles will get you if you don't watch out."

Now that is "health education" as she is!!!

⁶⁶THE practitioners of the highly profitable pseudo-science of 'Fakopsychanalysis,' predicts the San Francisco Chronicle editorially, "are folding their tents and seeking new fields where one may get a fat living without working for it. 'To Let' signs are adorning the doors of offices where personality doctors formerly diagnosed the mysterious causes of laziness, incapacity, and general discontent.

"These cure-all quacks are on their way, making room for the next strange madness that lays hold upon idle minds always ready to be exploited by fakers."

G. B. S., the well-known British satirist who apparently gets enjoyment out of "stirring the animals," is again after the medicos. He prods rather ruthlessly and often stupidly, but after all he does good. He is getting well along in years, and it is safe to prophesy that he will call for one of the members of that "self-disgraced trade union, the British Medical Council," as he calls it, at no far distant date.

Some of the little G. B. S. imitators in our country unfortunately are much younger.

"CHIROTHESIAN FOUND NOT GUILTY—M. T. Larkin, Los Angeles, who was arrested on a charge of practicing medicine without a license, was found not guilty after a three-day jury trial. Albert Carter, special agent for the State Board of Medical Examiners, cites this case as an example of the handicap of prosecuting cases with inexperienced prosecutors. The evidence showed that Larkin treated paralysis, tumors, rheumatism, and kidney disease. Larkin contended he had the right to do such things in accordance with the tenets of the Chirothesian Church, of which he is a member."

Thus we have another of the 57 varieties. Soon they will be wanting their own board to license and control themselves.

When they do they may profit by the experiences of the chiro, and not make their law so tight that they cannot get in themselves.

Judge—Do you wish to marry again if you receive a divorce?

Rastus—Ah should say not! Ah withdraws from circulation.

DOCTOR MARIANA BERTOLA, President Federated Women's Clubs of California, was recently the guest of honor at a luncheon, with the San Francisco Clubs as hostesses. It was a remarkable testimonial of the esteem and affection in which Doctor Bertola is held by the great organization she is to head for the next two years.

The scene was an impressive one to those accustomed to observe humanity in mass movements. The some four hundred women who attended the luncheon were from all of Northern and Central California, and they were in earnest—justly so—in the beautiful tributes they paid to the guest of honor. The "lone man" guest was the most impressed person present—impressed with the immense power for good inherent in these serious-minded members of our families who are rapidly forming themselves into all that their name—Federation—implies; impressed with the facility and aptness with which the numerous speakers delivered their telling messages, and with the lively discriminating interest with which these messages were received.

The permanent message the "lone man" guest carried away with him was that mothers have moved their conference tables from individual meditation over the kitchen table to the forum tables of vast conference halls.

Another permanent impression was that these mothers, wives, and sisters loved their president, Mariana Bertola, another evidence of wisdom that will be seconded and applauded by every physician in California.

With Medical Editors:

—Long Island Medical Journal plans to run a series of articles written in "textbook style." The editor says:

"While textbook articles in medical journals are ap-

proved by most doctors, yet some medical leaders do not favor them because doctors can find the information in textbooks. Our reply is that an author of a textbook is seldom willing to state a simple, positive line of treatment which a family doctor can recommend to his patient, and yet that same specialist is perfectly willing to outline a dogmatic line of treatment to a doctor with whom he converses in a friendly way."

—The editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, June, compliments BETTER HEALTH magazine, by reproducing one of its editorials.

—In a lengthy editorial on "The Evolution of the Doctor" (Journal of the Kansas Medical Society) it is stated that:

"For the greater part of a century the family doctor has been passing, not through a process of decadence, but a process of evolution—a process of evolution dependent upon conditions over which he had little if any control, and with which the medical profession as a whole had nothing to do."

—"The general practitioner, in the old sense, is indeed gone, but not so the trusted friend and family adviser," states the editor of the Rhode Island Medical Journal. "He still exists, usually in the person of a medical man, sometimes a surgeon and sometimes a rather questionable combination of the two, but still he remains the father confessor in matters of health, the clearing house for family illness."

—"IF CRIME CONTINUES UNCHECKED AND UNPUNISHED, with murder excusable on the specious pleas of 'glands' and 'insanity,' the country cannot survive. Never was there more pathetic demonstration of 'A little learning is a dangerous thing' than the fashion in which justice is prostituted to meet the demand of sentimentalists and the hawking of learned phrases in the mouths of comparatively ignorant laymen."—Editorial Illinois Medical Journal.

—"A VERY LARGE PERCENTAGE of the regular medical profession is both progressive and ethical, but there is an element within our profession that represents quackery and dishonesty which little effort on the part of the profession has been put forth to abolish. *Some of the quackery and deception practiced by supposedly reputable members of the medical profession is of that refined and polished type that is hard to detect by the average observer.* Some of it is blatant and crooked, with no attempt to gloss it over, and our profession suffers by harboring within its ranks these men who disgrace us."—Editorial Journal Indiana Medical Association.

STATISTICS may demonstrate that ox-carts were safer than motor-cars are; but we are through with ox-carts, and are not going back to them, though the casualties on our streets are multiplied by ten—which Heaven forbid!—Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, Michigan Alumnus.

Fake Oil Stock Promoters and fly-by-night salesmen of other classes have found such "good pickings" among physicians that a growing group of "twilight zoners" of our own profession have entered the skin-game field with a variety of schemes calculated to separate credulous doctors from their hard-earned savings.

Some of these medical sharpers have jail records, and almost without exception their records as physicians and citizens are shady or dirty.

Like others of their ilk they have caught on to the fact that a paper organization with a high-sounding name is an asset. An attractive policy expressed in ambiguous platitudes also helps.

Several letters inquiring about some of these "movements" have been received from members recently. One of the most active who is sending out most alluring letters has a "newspaper morgue" record that would make a billy goat whose "glands" had been used by rejuvenators blush for shame.

"ANHEDONIA" is "coming in" fast. The word is not particularly new, but its definition, once limited to "absence of pleasure from the performance of acts which would ordinarily be pleasurable," has expanded to include "Americanitis," neurasthenia, and many more allied conditions.

We now have books on the "subject," one of which, by

Abraham Myerson, is more than passably interesting and will be found useful reading by physicians.

SOMEONE MUST HAVE PAWNED OFF A PHONY mailing list on a hernia cure "specialist" recently. Many people who never had a rupture or who have long since been cured by operation, are being deluged and importuned by one of those "wise birds" of New York who can fit your truss by mail, to buy his truss and be cured.

This "doctor" proposes to extend thousands of lives by fitting a truss by mail for a fee. Not only that, but—for a fee—he will also supply by mail an ointment that will make the tissues so strong that the next rupture must perforce break through elsewhere.

There is significance in the fact that non-medical people send "literature" of this quality to a medical editor and invite comment.

Doctor Murdered When Answering a Fake Call! Baby of Murdered Nurse Discovered!—Headlines like these are becoming all too frequent. It has been exceptional when the doctor and his "black bag" and nurses in uniform were interfered with in their errands of mercy. Is this form of murderer and gangster a new product? Is the time coming when these servants of suffering humanity must add an automatic to their equipment?

THE FAMILY DOCTOR AIN'T WHAT HE USED TO BE, according to Bill Baily (San Francisco Bulletin). Of course not, Bill, and neither are journalists, farmers, lawyers, laborers, any others who make a living—we hope—out of service. Bill's chief complaint is that during the old days "a fellow could get sick any time, day or night, and old Doctor Jones would come, but now can a person become ill any time he feels like it? One should say not?"

One of our readers suggests that we ask Bill to try to get a plumber, electrician, or any other kind of skilled worker any time he thinks he needs him, and he will find that they, too, take certain times for recreation and sleep.

TAKING FOR HIS TEXT the "me too" statements by Doctor Copeland (Collier's) about the alleged disappearance of the family doctor, the editor of the San Francisco Chronicle says, among other things:

"We may gain in health, but we shall lose a great deal in sentiment when the old family doctor passes completely out of the scheme of things and a younger, brisker practitioner of preventive medicine has taken his place."

Don't worry, brother editor, the family doctor is not going. He may change as those of other vocations change, but he will still correlate new facts and apply them as of yore. He will become more able scientifically without losing his pristine art. He will pick out the rare kernels in the vast chaff of the "new psychology" and serve them clean at the bedside and elsewhere without blowing the smut and chaff all over the home. He will do all of these things and others, *but he is not going*. Quite the contrary. There are more family doctors now than ever before—well over 100,000 of them in our country. There are worthy specialists, too. Many of them, and they—at least those worth while—sustain the hand of the new family physician—personal health counselor, as President Vincent of the Rockefeller Foundation calls him—rather than detract from his sphere.

There is nothing, except the wish that is father to the thought, to indicate that the personal health physician is disappearing.

From Our Correspondents:

—DUDLEY SMITH, M. D. (Oakland and San Francisco)—Regarding "Medical and Surgical Conversaciones," I believe these discussions will be very popular and very valuable, and that you are wise to continue to devote space to them.

—WILLA A. CAMERON, M. D. (Keswick, Iowa)—Yes, indeed, I should like more "Conversaciones" of the type found in the September issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

—EDWARD C. HALLEY, M. D. (Fresno)—We feel that

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has hit upon something very practical in "Conversaciones," instituted in the September issue. It is comforting indeed to learn that the well-known contributors to the initial article, when asked for a definite and concise opinion, expressed themselves so in harmony regarding gall-bladder surgery. We did not surmise that there was such general agreement in dealing with gall-bladder pathology.

I shall be willing to take any part in the discussion that you may deem me qualified to handle.

—C. B. ALEXANDER, M. D. (Alhambra, Calif.)—I enjoyed reading the "Conversaciones" by invited authors very much. It certainly is a new and direct way of getting the meat in the coconut. Here is hoping you continue it. Would enjoy joining in "Conversaciones" on Surgery at any time.

YOU can make more money being a quack, a petti-fogger, a spiritualistic medium, a phrenologist, a palmist, an itinerant tent-evangelist, a patent-medicine peddler, or a plain second-story man, than in any honest, self-respecting vocation.—Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, Michigan Alumnus.

Treatment of Bronchial Asthma—This paper by Albert H. Rowe, Oakland, Calif. (Journal A. M. A., June 20, 1925), is based on 234 cases of bronchial asthma in which the patients have co-operated satisfactorily in their treatment. The occurrence of allergy in antecedents has been carefully noted, 56.4 per cent of the patients showing a positive family history. Angioneurotic edema occurred only twice. Ninety-one per cent of the patients gave one or more positive skin reactions. Rowe feels that this high percentage of positive reactions is due to the use of a large number of food, animal emanations and pollen proteins, to the use of orris root in routine testing, and to the use of many miscellaneous proteins in the unusual case. Retesting on several occasions when the asthma remained uncontrolled has revealed many reactions that would have been missed. In this series no positive reactions to bacteria have been recorded. Of the 234 patients, 63.4 per cent had complete or nearly complete relief from treatment; 26.9 per cent had marked relief; 5.5 per cent had slight relief, and 4.2 per cent had no relief, the patient himself or some member of the family being in each instance the judge of the result obtained. Results were satisfactory in approximately 90.3 per cent. The treatment has been guided by the skin reactions. For the control of food sensitization, total exclusion of the offending substance is necessary. Wheat, in Rowe's experience, most frequently gives important food reactions. Many delayed reactions to wheat have also revealed a true sensitization. Eggs, milk, and the cereals other than wheat follow in order of importance. Pollen reactions have occurred in 39.7 per cent of the cases, and nearly all have required pollen desensitization. Positive reactions to one or more animal emanation proteins have occurred in 58.5 per cent. Feather proteins have reacted in 16 per cent of the cases. These proteins have also given many delayed reactions, and successful treatment based on these reactions has often corroborated the indicated sensitization. Orris root gave positive reactions in 10 per cent of the cases. In this series, 169 operations had been performed on 110 patients, with only slight relief of the asthma in a few cases. Rowe's experience is that uncontrolled cases are rarely helped by climatic changes. Epinephrin should be used to control spasmodic attacks, but it is often useless in severe cases. Two or three grain doses of chloral hydrate combined with four or five minimum doses of hyoscyamus has helped to tide over the patients while the diagnosis is being made and treatment instituted. Iodids in large doses give many asthmatic patients some relief. The burning of niter and stramonium leaves is indicated when it gives relief. Quartz light with vaccine therapy has been found very valuable when bronchitis complicates asthma. Morphine should rarely, if ever, be used even in the most severe attacks, because of its demoralizing effect on the patient. Calcium chlorid and peptone intravenously have been of no value in the control of Rowe's cases of severe asthma.